

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a metallic substrate;  
an electroless nickel alloy layer disposed over the metallic substrate; and  
an outer electrolytic nickel layer disposed over the electroless nickel alloy layer.
2. (currently amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, comprising:  
an inner electrolytic nickel layer disposed over the metallic substrate, wherein the electroless nickel alloy layer is disposed over the inner electrolytic nickel layer.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the electroless nickel alloy layer comprises phosphorous.
4. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, comprising a polymeric coating layer disposed over the outer electrolytic nickel layer.
5. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the metallic substrate is a bearing component.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer electrolytic nickel layer consists essentially of nickel.
- 7 – 26. (canceled)
27. (new) An apparatus, comprising:  
a metallic substrate;

a first Wood's nickel strike layer disposed over the metallic substrate;  
an electroless nickel-containing layer disposed over the first Wood's nickel strike layer; and  
a second Wood's nickel strike layer disposed over the electroless nickel layer.

28. (new) The apparatus as recited in claim 27, wherein the metallic substrate comprises an inner ring of a bearing assembly.

29. (new) The apparatus as recited in claim 27, wherein the metallic substrate comprises an outer ring of a bearing assembly.

30. (new) The apparatus as recited in claim 27, comprising:  
a polymeric layer disposed over the second Wood's nickel strike layer.